

[Page 1, last partial paragraph through page 2, first partial paragraph, please replace with the following:

B There are a number of known requisition purchasing systems that manage and process requisitions and purchase orders. One such system is the Fisher Scientific Requisition and Inventory Management System ("Fisher RIMS"), described in U.S. Patent No. 5,712,989, issued on January 28, 1998 and assigned to Fisher Scientific Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. As its title suggests, Fisher RIMS can also manage inventory. In the Fisher RIMS system, requisition records are created from a real-time interaction between a host computer (generally a mainframe) and a local computer (generally at a customer site), with each computer using data from its own respective database of inventory in conjunction with information entered by a customer service representative operating the local computer. By accessing its respective database, each computer can build and transmit to the other computer communications blocks of data relating to a particular requisition of an item in inventory (or to the management of the inventory itself). The other computer can then use the received data to continue processing of the requisition. Thus, requisition records are created from a real-time interaction between the host and local computers, with each computer using data from its respective database in conjunction with information entered by a customer service representative operating the local computer.

[Page 12, last partial paragraph through page 13, first partial paragraph, please replace with the following:

B Preferably, a user will start the electronic sourcing system 5 from Fisher RIMS system 40. Requisitioning on Fisher RIMS system 40 in context of the electronic sourcing system 5 of the present invention is illustrated in pertinent part in FIG. 2 (and is fully described in U.S. Patent No.

B³ 5,712,989). As data (e.g., Account Number, Requisition Number and Stock Numbers) associated with a single requisition are entered through the various data screens on local computer 20, that computer creates a set of Requisition Tables (including a requisition Item Table 46, shown in FIG. 1C) for that particular requisition. The Requisition Tables are stored in Requisition databases 42A (shown in FIG. 1A), and can be accessed by local computer 20 using the Requisition Number to find the desired table.

Page 32, last partial paragraph, through page 33 first partial paragraph, please replace with the following:

B⁴ Referring again to FIG. 2, a user is able to view the messages returned by pressing the ALT F11 function keys in REQI program 44A and its associated Requisition Management screen 110 in Fisher RIMS system 40. After the ALT F11 keys have been pressed, REQI program 44A will link to ESMV program 112 via XCTL link 111 for displaying the message log created. ESMV program 112 is a function of Fisher RIMS system 40. ESMV program 112 allows the user to page through the messages created and then to return to Requisition Management screen 110. A sample ESMV message screen associated with ESMV program 112 is shown in Appendix X.